

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FBIS Field Bureaus

7 February 1955

FROM : Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT : Letter of Instruction

GENERAL

1. BBC resumed coverage of TASS Hellschrieber transmissions on 2 February, after a five month lapse occasioned by negotiations with Reuters over the latter's copyright interest. [redacted]

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2. Comprehensive coverage of revolutionary attempts in Guatemala, Panama, and especially Costa Rica was carried out during the month by East and West Coast Bureaus which included virtually complete coverage of the transmissions of the clandestine radio of the Costa Rican rebel invasion forces. An additional shift overnight was maintained at the East Coast Bureau during the most critical period to provide continuous coverage. [redacted]

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3. Regular FBIS B-wire service was extended to the National Indications Center on 21 January. A special wire service to the U.S. delegation at the United Nations, New York, was commenced at DD/I request on 29 January to provide the delegation with selected material on the Formosa crisis. [redacted]

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4. Arrangements were made with the Office of Current Intelligence to obtain the Agenda for the weekly intelligence briefings for the National Security Council. The Agenda is disseminated to field bureaus for guidance in reporting. [redacted]

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5. Comment on 31 January Daily Report:

(a) The USSR and Eastern Europe and the Far East Daily Reports of 31 January and the week end "B" Wire are publications of remarkable merit.

(b) Because of the rapidly developing Formosa crisis and shifts of emphasis within the USSR there was a very large volume of pertinent material on hand Monday 31 January for publication. By severe editing this was organized and published in the Daily Report on Monday, in spite of staff shortages in the Publications Section.

(c) The "B" Wire performed its function excellently.

(d) The Editorial Sections which prepared these two Daily Reports, the section which typed them for reproduction, and the Wire Service Section are commended for excellent work. The Field Bureaus' continuous faithful reporting of this valuable type of intelligence material is commended. [redacted]

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7. As a result of excellent and speedy handling by West Coast Bureau monitors and editors, the first official indication of Peking's attitude toward a UN mediated cease fire, in the form of Chou En-Lai's declaration, was filed to FBIS wire addressees an hour before the story was carried by AP, on 24 January. Peking and Moscow comments on congressional discussion of the President's Formosa message to Congress were hand carried to General Persons at the White House on 28 January, in response to a request to the Director by the White House Press Secretary. [redacted]

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8. With the concurrence of FBIS, VOA is arranging for installation of a direct wire from the FBIS East Coast Bureau to carry selected live European broadcasts to VOA headquarters. [redacted]

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10. In anticipation of BBC budget cuts, and in preparation for discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the FBIS-BBC Coordination Committee, FBIS is studying possibilities of transferring coverage responsibilities from BBC to FBIS. Replies to FBIS requests for evaluation of the BBC Baltic area coverage sent to State, USIA, Army, Navy, USAF, and Agency offices on 5 January indicate continuing requirements for this material. [redacted]

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11. Preparations were completed for the survey of locations in Bangkok for emergency Southeast Asia coverage, and [redacted] Chief Engineer Okinawa Bureau departed for Bangkok on 2 February to conduct on-the-spot investigations. [redacted]

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12. Office of Communications was asked to investigate a possible alternate Okinawa communications circuit through USAF. It is understood that the Air Force is constructing a new transmitter in Okinawa for its GLOBECOM network. Ability to send a limited amount of FBIS traffic into this system might solve Okinawa Bureau's occasional problems of delay and outages. [redacted]

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13. FBIS has relinquished its interest in the ACAN area at Sobe, Okinawa, and the Department of the Army was informed accordingly. This action was taken after the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Army, advised that ACAN intends to purchase the entire operations and antenna area at Sobe, and not to lease the antenna field as previously contemplated. Sharing in this extensive purchase would involve an unjustified financial burden on FBIS, in view of the cancellation by USAF of the Bolo Airfield project and lack of a requirement to move FBIS to Sobe. The Army was also advised that it is the intent of the FBIS to purchase the 4.7 acre Operations Area at Bolo Point and to continue its lease of the Bolo antenna field. [REDACTED]

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14. Okinawa Construction:

a. A project for construction of six duplex and two four-unit bachelor houses in Okinawa at an estimated cost of \$281,756 was approved by the Director. Funds will be obligated in the third quarter of FY 55, and construction will start after completion and occupation of the preceding group of houses. The latter project is sixty percent complete. Site planning authorized in January for the remainder of the Okinawa housing program was accomplished.

b. The underground power line extension to the operations site is seventy-eight percent complete. Progress should be rapid after transformers and cable are received about 15 February. [REDACTED]

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

1. All bureaus

a. A title longer than three words normally should be used appositively. As examples, "Secretary of State Dulles" but "John Doe, Professor of Architecture at Charles University in Prague." One awkward construction frequently noticed in copy is "Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Richard Roe," which would read more smoothly if sent as "Richard Roe, Member of the Communist Party Central Committee." [REDACTED]

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b. It would be helpful to departmental editors if references to individual USSR Republics were not abbreviated. The use of ESSR for Estonian SSR, USSR for Ukrainian SSR, etc., causes confusion in copy and increases the possibility of transmission garbles. [REDACTED]

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c. Statistical reports and statements of plan fulfillment by the various Communist political entities have been processed in very considerable volume and have been carried in fullest possible form in our productions. This annual activity is routine, but it is to be stressed that these major items are of great value. It has been well done this year, and the Field Bureaus may reflect upon their handling of these broadcasts with satisfaction. [REDACTED]

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2. London Bureau

a. Major Western speeches and events, such as the President's State-of-the-Union message, inevitably occasion a flood of comment from the Satellite radios. Since space in the Daily Report is at a premium, it is often impossible to include representative samples of the reaction in each country in the East European Report without sacrificing other pertinent comment. Consequently, more extensive treatment of such speeches, etc., in the East European Review when the comment is largely similar in content would permit tighter selection for the book without slighting the event as far as individual countries are concerned. The above practice will not eliminate the need for full texts of such items, however. [redacted]

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b. There appears to be some discrepancy in the terminology for Polish National Councils and People's Councils, as reported in PAP English Morse transmissions from the East Coast and those from the London Bureau. East Coast copy consistently refers to "People's Councils" whereas London uses "National Councils." It is suggested that London follow the East Coast style, which is based on PAP usage. [redacted]

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c. Home Service and Press briefs should not be sent in the same take. Also it would be welcomed if Satellite economic briefs were held in separate national units and transmitted when enough have accumulated to make up a full take. This would facilitate distribution to area editors in headquarters, and would make the message reference number available if it is necessary to ask for corrections or amplification. [redacted]

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3. East and West Coast and Okinawa Bureaus

These bureaus are to be commended for the excellent spot coverage they have provided during the Costa Rican and Formosan incidents. [redacted]

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RADIO PROPAGANDA COMMENT

1. Measured in published output, January was one of the Radio Propaganda Branch's most productive months. All bureaus contributed roundups which formed the basis for Radio Reaction Reports on the Costa Rican hostilities, the President's message to Congress on Formosa, and the State-of-the-Union message. The latter, together with a report on developments in the Formosan liberation campaign (incorporating Okinawa's Communist Chinese regional radio tabulations) and an analysis of indications of probable Soviet reaction to ratification of the Paris agreements were timed to provide background material for the Director's weekly briefings of the National Security Council. [redacted]

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2. Kyrenia's weekly roundups of atheism were used in a Report on the Soviet radio campaign against religion. Malenkov's broad position on foreign policy issues was outlined in another Report. Contributions to National Estimates examined radio propaganda on Pakistan and Yugoslav-Soviet relations; a review of Communist treatment of the capture of Yikiangshan was prepared on request in connection with a special meeting of the National Security Council; and suggestions for counterpropaganda on the theme of Soviet materialism were submitted to offices responsible for psychological operations. [REDACTED]

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3. Paul McPherson, Deputy Chief RPB visited major mid-Western universities on the second half of a recruiting tour. Some ten promising candidates for analyst positions were interviewed on the two trips. [REDACTED]

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4. All bureaus are reminded of the particular importance of comment from both Peking and Soviet transmitters bearing on the Soviet role in Asian affairs, since hints of Sino-Soviet differences are reemerging around the basic contention that Asians are capable of assuming full responsibility for their own security. Special studies of this issue will be made during the February Bangkok SEATO and the April Asian-African conferences, and bureaus should plan to file as complete coverage of Communist Chinese and Soviet reaction to these meetings as other basic commitments allow. [REDACTED]

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5. While commentary listings for items marked "sent" need only be briefly identified, excessively generalized identifications occasionally make it difficult to locate the item--e.g., commentary on the banning of atomic weapons (sent) (Several languages listed). [REDACTED]

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FIELD OPERATIONS COMMENT

1. Coverage deletions of certain types should not be treated routinely and merely notified post facto in the periodical coverage change report. Principal types in this category are:

- a. Priority I shows
- b. Sole remaining show from a country
- c. Sole remaining show in a language
- d. Coverage which has been coordinated, either with headquarters or directly with another bureau.

Notification of intention to delete (or suspend for any unusual period) should be communicated by teletype as far in advance as is practicable, with a brief explanation of the circumstances included. In the case of unpredictable losses of reception, notification should not be withheld until the next coverage change report. [REDACTED]

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2. Official notice has been received that the revised Army communications procedures established in ACP 127-B will supersede the JANAP 127-A procedures during March 1955; the tentative effective date is 28 March. Copies of ACP 127-B were distributed to bureaus during the past year and teletypist personnel received special training in most cases. These personnel should now refresh themselves on this training. Any further requirements for training or problems occurring in review of ACP 127-B should be referred to the ACAN relay station of which the bureau is a tributary. If satisfaction cannot be obtained, the matter should be referred to FBIS headquarters. [redacted]

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3. Attention is called to paragraph 4-B of section D (Coverage Report) of [redacted] which is apparently being overlooked by some bureaus, to their inconvenience. Where all changes are reported by wire, it is not desired that this information be repeated by mail. Where only important changes are reported by wire, usually because a complete list of changes is too complex or cumbersome, the balance of minor changes should then be reported by mail. Negative reports by wire should not be confirmed by attachments to the Progress Report stating "no changes", and especially not by three attachments reporting respectively "no additions", "no deletions", and "no modifications". A simple statement in paragraph II-A-1-a of the Progress Report is sufficient. [redacted]

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4. A copy of the consolidated monthly production report is reproduced in an attachment hereto for the information of field personnel, who normally do not see the picture beyond the bureau's individual contribution. A method of including the count of economic abstracts (omitted since the conversion to cards) in the "items published" column has been devised which restores the real picture of how much of the bureau's files is receiving general dissemination. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

1. The attention of all employees is called to the following instructions for the proper issuance of insurance checks. If checks are made out differently it will be necessary to return them and the employee will risk lapse of his policy. Administrative Officers should extract this information and assure that each individual is informed:

Purpose

Make check payable to:

All Hospitalization
(Both GHI and Mutual Health)

GEHA - Health

All Life Insurance
(Both WAEPA and United Benefit)

GEHA - Life

2. [redacted] of FBID was one of two Agency employees selected for participation in the Agency's Junior Officer Career Development program, effective 28 January. [redacted]

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3. The positions of Administrative Assistant GS-9 at the Mediterranean and Okinawa Bureaus were reclassified to Administrative Officer, GS-11, effective 28 January.

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. New Employees:

Assignment

[Redacted]

Editorial Branch

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West Coast Bureau

Editorial Branch

2. Reassignments:

From:

To:

[Redacted]

West Coast Bureau

Mediterranean Bureau

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Editorial Branch

Administrative Staff

Tokyo Bureau

Editorial Branch

London Bureau

Radio Propaganda Branch

3. Separations:

From:

[Redacted]

Clerk-Typist, Radio Propaganda Branch

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ALAN M. WARFIELD

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Attachment

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1. Daily Average of Field Bureau Production, January 1955
Average Computed on Basis of 5-day week.

FIELD BUREAU	HOURS MONITORED	WORDAGE FILED	ITEMS FILED	ITEMS PUBLISHED
Tokyo	25½	9,800*	29*	17*
Hokkaido	14¼	9,700	98	64
Okinawa	96¼	23,400	94	79
Saigon	21	5,540*	24*	17*
West Coast	88	28,000	160	79
East Coast	143½	20,100	120	45
London	255½	58,000	120	115
Germany	20½	9,500*	56*	40*
Austria	5¼	4,900*	22*	10*
Mediterranean	<u>77½</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>118</u>
Totals	747¼	193,940	887	584

*Includes press scrutiny.

Note: Beginning with this report figures for economic abstract cards are included in the Items Published column.

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